

~~Beaver~~

WEAVER

John
Tilman

Mary

John

Joice Calliham - dau of
John Weaver 10-9-1719.
1715-30.244.

1740.

John Weaver. Carpenter & wife
Elyse to Edw. Weaver 195a - on
e. side Joseph's sep. ady. Thos.
Bland's land, Collyer's land, conveyed
by Tho Tomlinson to John Weaver
gr - father of this sd John by his
1st T. decessed Henry Weaver
~~was~~ died - the father of this sd
John -

1738-54-163.

John

Swing D #4

4-97. John Weaver's deed of gift to son Gilbert 2-22
1742 - 100 @ - on E. S. Jones hole sw - on wms
Jones - Mt. Riv + Governors Rd - over Br -
pt of a part of John Jones - 11-13-1713 - & by
sd Jones sold to me. B - 16-1742 -
wms Willie, Edw. Eyes, Timothy Egel

S 17/5-30

88. 2-17-1717 - Tho Tomlinson + wife Eliza to John
Weaver - S1 - 5 shd - 195a - on land formerly taken
to Lt am Randolph died - College land,
Rt Weaver, X Kopher Tatem, wms More, 2-19-1717.
Rel. for 5 shd -

Tilman

Bk. E. - 352

Prince Wm.

Tilman Weaver - 9.1-1752.

221e Adj. Bungee & Thornton's
land.

E. 240

Prince Wm

Tilman Weaver - 3.26-1741

539e. on some of the branches of
Gummey's run adj. Ball's land

Mary

S 1754-68

Mary Weaver - w. of Edw. W left
a bequest in will of Gilbert Hay 1758

Weaver

The History of Germantown.

The history of Germantown in Fauquier County, Virginia, like many other localities in the United States runs back to Switzerland and the Valley of the Rhine.

In 1709, Christopher von Graffenreid, a member of a noble Swiss family then in London, conceived the idea of bettering his fortunes by founding a Swiss and German Colony in America.

----- locating silver mines in that locality. For these reasons Governor Spotswood took an interest in De Graffenreid, who told him that through his friends and relatives in Germany he could get skilled miners to come to America and thus develop the supposed silver mines.

In 1712 the project took definite and De Graffenreid went to to secure miners from Germany.

The Colonists who finally founded the Germantown settlement in Fauquier came from the old Principality of Nassau Siegen Germany, and their homes were in the neighborhood of Siegen the capital of the District.

The Colony was organized in 1713 and went to London -----
-----some merchants of that city agreed to advance the money necessary to send the Colonist to Virginia, with the understanding that Governor Spotswood would reimburse them. The Germans had some money of their own and the merchants advanced the remainder. The colonists sailed from London in the beginning of the year 1714 and reached Virginia in the month of April 1714.

The German colony consisted, upon its arrival in Virginia of forty-two persons and in 1724, when living in Germantown in the present County of Fauquier, they proved their imptation in the County Court of Spotsylvania in order to take up land under the Head-right Act.

Their names were as follows: John Kemper and Alice Katrina his wife; Jacob Holtzelaw and his wife Margaret and son John Henry; John Joseph Mardten (Martin) and wife Marian Katrina; John Spilman and wife Mary; Herman Fishback and wife Kathrina; John Huffman (John Henry Hoffman) and wife Kathrina; Joseph Guntz (Kuntz-Coons) and wife Katrina and son John Analls;

Weaver

Will of Tilman Weaver: Leg.-beloved wife Anne Elizabeth Weaver, the use of my plantation and land, adjoining which I now live and also a tract of 111 acres, being the land I had of Martin Hardin, which was taken up by John Hardin; reversion of this bequest to my son son Tilman Weaver at the death of my wife; eight slaves to my wife, with reversion to sons Tilman, John and daughter Susannah Weaver; daughter Anne Kemper, wife to John Kemper; daughter Mary wife to Harmon Hitt my tract in Culpeper; to daughter Eve Porter wife to Samuel Porter, 150 acres being the land that I bought of Charles Taylor; son Jacob; daughter Elizabeth; daughter Catherine; son John. Exs., beloved wife Anne Elizabeth Weaver, son Jacob Weaver and son-in-law Samuel Porter.

D. December 14, 1759

R. March 27, 1760

Wit. William Norman, Tilman Martin, Thomas Marshall.

(A great deal of land and many slaves).

Fauquier-Will Book I, p. 13.

Joseph Hitt and wife Mary, Harmon Kemper and wife Catherine, and Anne Elizabeth Weaver to William Hunton ----- land bounded by Armistead Churchill, William Russell, which he bought of Thomas and Samuel Porter and is the land which descended to Mary, Catherine and Anne Elizabeth as sisters and coheirresses of Tilman Cowne, decd. May 27, 1762.

Fauquier, Deed Book I, p. 323

Appraisal estate of Tilman Weaver.

June 24, 1762.

Appraised by John Wright, Jeremiah Darnal, John Sinklear.

June 24, 1762.

Fauquier Will Book I, p. 52.

WEAVER

Fauquier Under the Proprietorship by Grooms
P. 122.

A warrent was issued in the summer of 1718 for 1,805 acres lying on both sides of Licking Run, to 'Jacob Holtzelaw, John Hoffman, John Fishback, Peter Hitt, Harman Fishback, Tilman Weaver, John Spillman and several other Germans'. Of the latter were John Kemper, John Joseph Martin, Joseph Coons and Jacob Rector. These men and one, whose identity is not established, moved with their families from Germanna and traveling the Old Iroquois trail occupied the Licking Run tract in 1720.

The bill filed in Fauquier County Court----- states that the twelve Germans entered into an agreement with each other that each should bear equally the expense of acquiring the title to this tract; that the land should be divided into twelve parts of 150 acres each, which should be distributed by lot etc.

The Rev. James Kemper, grandson of John Kemper, throws further light on the organization of of the Germantown community. He says --- that each of the twelve shares in the Germantown grant was surveyed in an oblong square, the run or creek passig through the middledof each tract. He also testifies that in their trek to Germantown the colonists packed all their provosions on their heads and thereafter raised their first crop with hoes, in both of which their women bore a part.

P. 129 At the present time there are descendants of but one of the twelve families living on the Germantown tract. A Miss Weaver and her brother still own about 130 acres of this tract, and it is evidently a part of the tract that was originally set off to Tilman Weaver. The original Weaver house built of logs, now weatherboarded with poplar still stands. It was built in 1721, as a poplar board over the door with this date carved on it shows.

The 1714 Colony of Germanna Virginia.

On April 7th and June 2, 1724, twelve heads of families appeared at a court held for Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in order to prove their right to take up land according to royal charter. They made oath that they had come to Virginia in 1714. ----their names as follows:

1. Jacon Holzclaw, his wife Margaret and John and Henry his sons.
2. Herman Fishback and Kathrina his wife
3. John Fishback and Agnes his wife.
4. John Kemper and Alice Kathrina his wife
5. Johnannes Martin and Maria Katrina his wife
6. John Spellman and Mary his wife.
7. John Huffman and Kathrina his wife
8. Joseph Cuntz and his wife Katharina, his son John Annalis (sic) and Kathrina his daughter.
9. Jacon Rickart (Rector), his wife Elizabeth and his son John
10. Milchert Bramback and Elizabeth his wife.
11. Tillman Weaver and his mother Ann Weaver.
12. Peter Hitt and Elizabeth his wife.

These affidavits mention only twenty-nine persons, although other contemporaneous documents state that the colony consisted of some forty persons. The order to the surveyor to lay out these land were not given till May 1729.

In 1927 the writer (William J. Hinke, Ph. D.) visited Siegen and found in the church records of the Reformed church there entries referring to other members of the 1714 colony (that is other than Fishback and Kemper).

Families from Muesen.

The Merten (Martin) Family. Jacob Merten, Bergschoffe (chief miner) born about 1634. He died Oct. 19, 1689. He married Jan. 24, 1654, Margarete Eichen, who died Sept. 1, 1693. Their

children --- among others, Hans Jacob, bapt. Sept. 23, 1660, died Aug. 26, 1693. He married Oct. 27, 1687, Anna Barbara Wurmbach, daughter of the assistant Judge Friedrich Wurmbach.

Thir children, ----- Johann Jost, born May 24, 1691, who emigrated to Virginia in 1714.

Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. XL, p. 317-325

Families from Oberfischbach.

The Cuntze (Kuntze, Cuntz) Family. On Jan. 20, 1704., the banns were proclaimed at Oberfischbach of Jost Kuntze, son of Johannes Kuntze, late of Niederndorf and of Anna Gertrud daughter of Martinus Reinschmidt; they were married Feb. 7th their children were 1. Johannes, bapt. April 18, 1708 at Niederndorf; 2. Anna Elizabeth; bapt. Dec. 23, 1708; sp. Anna Margrotha, da. of Tillman Kuntze and Elisabeth, wife of Valentin Schneider; 3. Christian, b. Aug. 30, 1712, sp. Christian Kuntz.

The objection to this identification are evident: 1. The name of John Cuntz's wife in the Virginia records is Catherine; 2. The names of the children of the Virginia ~~Kuntze~~ Cuntz, were John, Annalis and Cathrin. But, it cannot be regarded as beyond the range of possibility that 1. John Cuntz's wife died in 1713; 2 his son Christian may also have died and 3. the name Annalis in the Virginia records cannot be the name of a son, but must be the well-known abbreviation of the German name Anna Elizabeth, and that was the second child of the Oberfischbach man. Hence the possibility that the two persons are identical remains. (Notice that the Virginia records of the family prove that the name Tillman is carried, which the writer did not know about. B. A. C)

The Weber (Weaver) Family.

The name of Tillman Weber (Weaver) and his mother Anna has thus far not been found, either at Siegran or in its neighbor hood. But Mr. Ihrle reports that the surname Weber is found at Eiserfeld, Niederschelden and Weidenau. This leaves something for the future historian to investigate.

Virginia Historical Magazine, XLI, p.41-49

Weaver

Prince William Co.

June 23, 1746. Indenture between Tilman Weaver and Jacob Holtzelaw of Hamilton Parish to John Wright and Joseph Blackwell, Gent., fo 62E-8-0 a tract of land for the use of the Glebe, on Jeremiah Darnel and the German Roling Road. Acreage not given.

Prince William Deed Bk. I, p. 127

**Governor Spotswood's Colony of Metalworkers Will Be Honored Next Year
At Site of Their Settlement in 1714**

This German colony first practical demonstration of Church unity they observed as carefully tending in secular as in religious life. They took no part in evangelistic revivals. These Germans never proselytized.

Horseshoe

Be Honored Next Sunday

1714

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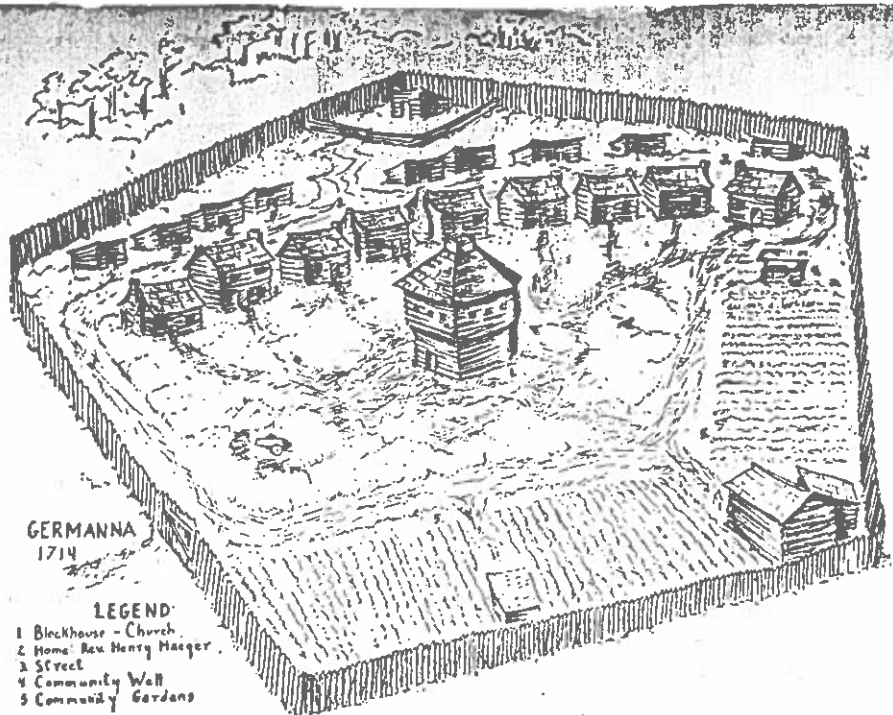
During the five or six years they remained at Germanna, they mined ore, built a furnace, and manufactured iron. Their enthusiasm was undoubtedly aggressive. Being efficient, industrious, and frugal, they were contented and prosperous but they wished to take up land of their own so that they might work the mines and cultivate the soil for themselves. Not being permitted to do so here, they sought elsewhere and found a large tract that pleased them in what is now Fauquier County. With a glint of iron in their eyes, they began moving there about 1720. Their removal and planning for a new phase of life was a sure sign of their maturity. They built new homes, a new church and school, and probably a new iron furnace and foundry. Their new village they named Germantown, and their new church Licking Run. Here they prospered for many years until the westward immigration, their senility, and the Revolutionary War dissolved their unity.

Twelve Clusters of Families

It is easy enough to understand Bishop Reichel's dry humor when he, passing through Germantown in 1780 remarked: "When one is in the town one asks where the town is?" The 12 clusters of buildings, composed each of a house and utility structure, were dotted about over a vast area nearly 2½ miles long by 1½ wide, each set of buildings serving a 150 acre farm. The details used by this writer in attempting to restore the scene in the accompanying sketches have been taken mostly from original sources—wills, deeds, and court orders—and from the research papers of Fairfax Harrison, Willis Miller Kemper, and others. The location of the grist mill, the iron furnace and foundry, and the Weaver homestead can be accurately determined; other details of the scene, however, are less easily fixed. (This article is concerned only with the first, 42 persons who were invited by Spotswood to come to Virginia and who arrived in Virginia in 1714. For other German families who came some years later, who "set down near them," and who remained here some years after "Our Colony" left, this study has no regard).

Our Own Iron Knights

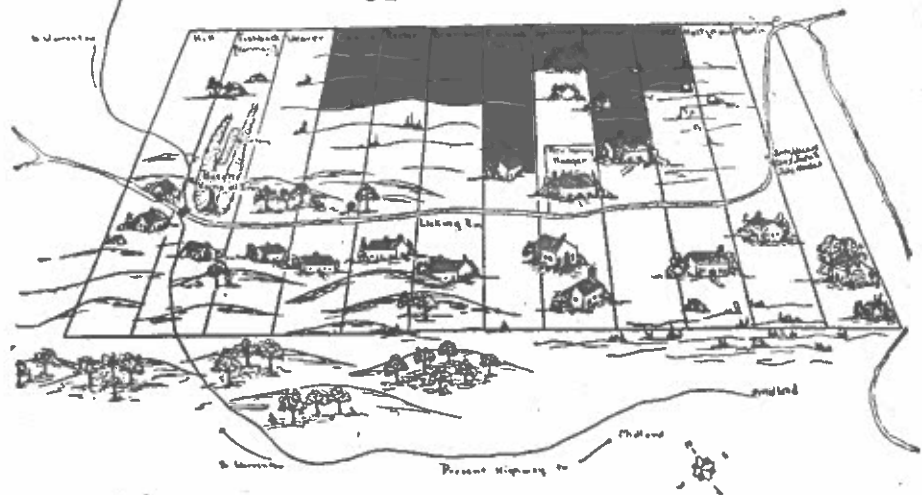
This German colony gave us perhaps our first practical demonstration of complete separation of Church and State. Scrupulously they observed the public laws, but as carefully they refrained from meddling in secular and ecclesiastical politics. They took no part whatever in the evangelistic revival of the eighteenth century. These German Reformed colonists were proselytizers; hence the Estab-



Germanna stockade, as described by John Fontaine, after a visit in 1715, is pictured by C. H. Huffman after a study of old records.

1720-1775

GERMANTOWN



Germantown, in Fauquier County, was founded by thirteen families after five years at Germanna, and flourished until time of Revolution.

lished Church of Virginia did not restrain them, but it did benevolently permit them to pursue the tenor of their way. They were zealous, but not narrow zealots. They were pious, but not Pietists. In the practice of their religion, if one may paraphrase "Gouverneur B.":

"They drew their furrer straight
And into nobody's tater-patch poked."

This wise and prudent discretion ante-dated Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom in Virginia and the Federal Constitution by more than half a century. Toleration had not been granted to them; it had been won by them.

At Germantown, they created an almost perfect demonstration of rugged American individualism, tempered by enlightened group interests common to all. These 12

immigrant families patented here an area of 1,800 acres, shared equally the cost of perfecting the title, and divided equally the immense tract by lot. Again sharing the cost equally, they set aside a choice 10-acre plot for the support and enjoyment of their pastor, Rev. Henry Haeger, who ministered to all impartially. Their gristmill, iron furnace and forge, their church and school were community projects. Here was practiced, with balanced emphasis on each, individualism and the general welfare.

The character and genius of the Siegenians are inextricably interwoven in the fabric of our State and nation. It was they who furnished the skill for our first mining operations and who pointed the way unerringly to the subsequent development of our great iron industry.